

real home and who produces the most records and lays down the most recording? What we can all agree on is that the United States of America is the hub for entertainment. It is where everyone wants to come, and, of course, we like that ingenuity and that creativity, and we love it that artists come to Nashville and say: We want to record that Nashville sound. Let us keep this industry viable.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF MATTHEW JAMES MADDOX

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today in support of the nomination of Matthew Maddox to be a U.S. district judge for the District of Maryland, and I urge my Senate colleagues to confirm his nomination.

I joined with Senator VAN HOLLEN to recommend Judge Maddox to President Biden. President Biden nominated Judge Maddox to this position in March of this year in order to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Paul Grimm in December of 2022.

Senator VAN HOLLEN and I have worked to establish a judicial selection committee in Maryland, including an open application process. In particular, we sought out a highly qualified and diverse applicant pool. Our committee interviewed several dozen applicants. Senator VAN HOLLEN and I then personally interviewed several finalists before recommending names to the White House.

I strongly agree with President Biden's goal to nominate judges with excellent legal credentials from diverse backgrounds from both professional and demographic perspectives, and today we have such an example of an excellent nominee from Maryland.

Judge Maddox was born and raised in Maryland and lives and works in Baltimore. He graduated summa cum laude from Morgan State University, an HBCU in Baltimore, in 1999, where he majored in philosophy and religious studies and minored in psychology. After receiving his B.A. degree, Judge Maddox was a Fulbright scholar and taught high school through the Teach for America Program. Judge Maddox received his J.D. degree from Yale Law School in 2011.

After working in private practice and serving in two judicial clerkships, in 2015, Judge Maddox was appointed as an assistant U.S. attorney in the District of Maryland. In this capacity, Judge Maddox prosecuted a range of criminal cases and conducted trainings for law enforcement on the topics of human trafficking and identity theft.

In 2020, Judge Maddox was selected to serve as Deputy Chief of the Major

Crimes Section in the Northern Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office.

In February 2022, Judge Maddox was sworn in as a U.S. magistrate judge and sits in Baltimore. Judge Maddox now presides over both preliminary criminal proceedings and civil lawsuits by consent of the parties.

Judge Maddox therefore also brings remarkable experience to this position, having served as a Federal prosecutor for nearly a decade and now having served as a magistrate judge for over a year and a half. If confirmed and elevated from a magistrate judge to a district judge, he would continue to serve in the same court where he now serves and has practiced for many years.

The Judiciary Committee favorably reported Judge Maddox in a bipartisan vote in September of this year, and the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary awarded Judge Maddox a unanimously "well qualified" rating—its highest possible rating.

I was delighted to recommend the nomination of Judge Maddox to President Biden along with Senator VAN HOLLEN. Judicial nominees must meet the highest standards of integrity, competence, and temperament. I am confident that Judge Maddox will safeguard the rights of all Marylanders, uphold the Constitution and rule of law, and faithfully follow the judicial oath to "do equal right to the poor and to the rich." Judge Maddox will serve the people of Maryland well if confirmed for this lifetime appointment. Judge Maddox has strong legal and judicial qualifications and has demonstrated a track record of public service.

Let me conclude by saying I know that public service is a family affair and sacrifice, so I particularly want to thank Judge Maddox's family for sharing him with the people of Maryland in the interest of public service.

Again, I urge my colleagues to support his confirmation.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I would ask consent that the vote scheduled for 5:30 p.m. start immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 306, Mat-

thew James Maddox, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Mazie Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Alex Padilla, Patty Murray, Sheldon Whitehouse, Debbie Stabenow, Tina Smith, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Tim Kaine, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Peter Welch.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Matthew James Maddox, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 273 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Butler	Kennedy	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Murray	Welch
Graham	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden

NAYS—40

Blackburn	Fischer	Ricketts
Boozman	Grassley	Romney
Braun	Hagerty	Rounds
Britt	Hawley	Rubio
Budd	Hoehn	Schmitt
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tuberville
Cramer	Marshall	Vance
Crapo	McConnell	Wicker
Cruz	Moran	Young
Daines	Mullin	
Ernst	Paul	

NOT VOTING—6

Barrasso	Lee	Scott (SC)
Fetterman	Risch	Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 40.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Minnesota.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

S. RES. 437

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I commend the Senate for its passage of our bipartisan resolution, S. Res. 437, condemning anti-Semitism, including any anti-Semitic acts committed on university or college campuses. No one deserves to feel unsafe in their community or school or threatened because of their religion or ethnicity. On October 16, the FBI released their annual statistics on hate crimes, which stated that anti-Semitic hate crimes rose 25 percent from 2021 to 2022 and accounted for over half of all reported religiously based hate crimes. The onset of war between Israel and Hamas has further exacerbated these anti-Semitic threats and incidents targeting Jewish Americans and Jewish organizations here in the United States. As a member of the Senate Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Antisemitism, I have an enduring and ongoing commitment to confront anti-Semitism wherever it rears its ugly head and to ensure we take all steps necessary to protect the Jewish community.

As we consider the best ways to counter anti-Semitism, it is important that we consult a range of definitions and tools to understand this problem. The White House's National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism notes several of these tools, including the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance—IHRA—definition of anti-Semitism, as well as the Nexus Document and other efforts. Moreover, as Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt made crystal clear during her confirmation hearing, "Criticism of Israeli policy is not antisemitism." Unfortunately, there are some who are attempting to politically weaponize anti-Semitism by equating criticism of Israeli Government actions with anti-Semitism. These politically motivated charges only weaken good faith efforts to confront the very real danger of anti-Semitism. That is why our bipartisan resolution is so important during these troubling times; it sends a clear, united message that anti-Semitism cannot be tolerated and the fight against it should not become politicized.

TRIBUTE TO EDDIE HUGHES

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Eddie Hughes on 60 years of service at UPS.

Eddie Hughes was born in Mt. Pleasant, MS, and moved to Indianapolis to take a job with UPS in 1963. His only hiatus came from 1965–1966, when Eddie served his country in the U.S. Army. Originally a package handler, Eddie became a UPS driver in 1968, a position he still holds to this day. During his 55 years in his current role, Eddie has driven an estimated 4.62 million miles making deliveries to Hoosiers. He has joined the company's "Circle of Honor," a distinction given to drivers who have amassed more than 25 years of safe driving.

Eddie and Mary, his wife of 42 years, live in Indianapolis. They have two adult children, William and Mary Elizabeth.

It is my honor to congratulate Mr. Hughes and his family on this remarkable milestone.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO PAM CUMMINGS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to outstanding educator Pam Cummings, the 2023 Arkansas History Teacher of the Year.

Cummings has dedicated her life to education and teaching the next generation of Arkansans. She started her career at a public charter school in Little Rock before becoming a history teacher in the Benton School District. For the last 12 years, she has shared her passion for history with Panther students in a number of classes, including U.S. history, advanced placement government, and world history. Her interest in history shapes her lessons and that enthusiasm is passed along to her students. When students see the real-world effect of what she is teaching, it brings her joy to see the connection. In addition to earning bachelor's degrees in journalism and political science, she has master's degrees in American history and government and education theory and practice. This leaves no doubt about her expertise and excellence in the classroom. In 2018, Cummings was named a recipient of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship for Arkansas. She has also served on the Arkansas Coalition for Social Studies.

Celebrating its 20th anniversary, the History Teacher of the Year award is presented by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the Nation's leading organization dedicated to K–12 American history education. The award honors one K–12 history teacher from each State, Washington DC, Department of Defense schools, and U.S. Territories.

Teachers shape the future. Arkansans can be proud knowing our youth have such a talented and knowledgeable educator who is committed to her craft. I congratulate Pam Cummings for this achievement and the positive impact she is making on the community. I am confident her efforts are inspiring a lifelong interest in history.●

RECOGNIZING CRAYONS 2 PENCILS

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Crayons 2 Pencils of Norwalk, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week during National Women's Small Business Month and National Veterans Small Business Week.

Owned and operated by husband and wife duo Matt and Jill Larsen in Norwalk, IA, Crayons 2 Pencils is an early learning center and recreation center providing childcare services to the Norwalk community. Following her career in corporate America, Jill's start in early childhood learning and development was in 2008, when she taught 13 kids in her home. In 2015, Jill partnered with her friend Cindy Gavin to use the same childcare curriculum in each of their homes. In 2016, Jill and Cindy were able to move their childcare operation into one location when they opened the Crayons 2 Pencils Early Childhood Center. Over the years, they have grown to 63 employees, with additional positions available over the summer months. Crayons 2 Pencils currently provides care to 281 children.

In 2020, Matt joined Crayons 2 Pencils full-time as a jack-of-all-trades driving the school bus, organizing construction projects, and handling the technology and security systems. In 2022, Crayons 2 Pencils opened the Crayons 2 Pencils Recreation Center, which serves preschool through third grade and is equipped with a gym, sand volleyball court, stage, and additional classrooms. In 2023, Crayons 2 Pencils celebrated their seventh business anniversary.

Service to our country is integral to the Larsen family. Matt has served in the Iowa Air National Guard for 18 years and was deployed to Iraq. Following in Matt's footsteps, their son Jayden also serves in the Iowa Air National Guard, in addition to being a member of Iowa State University's Spirit Squad with his sister Joslyn.

Crayons 2 Pencils is also actively involved in the Norwalk community. They are active members of the Norwalk Area Chamber of Commerce, being one of the sponsors of the second annual Celebrate Norwalk Party in City Park in 2023 and hosting the Norwalk Career Fair in 2021. They have also served as a valuable resource to other childcare centers in the area by mentoring and teaching courses on childcare to directors and employees.

Crayons 2 Pencil's commitment to providing outstanding childcare services in Norwalk, IA, is clear. I want to congratulate Matt and Jill Larsen and the entire team at Crayons 2 Pencils for their continued dedication. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●